

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claim 16 is amended to use wording, format and structure consistent with U.S. patent law practice.

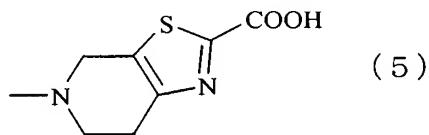
Claims 19-21 are amended to use proper antecedent basis and dependency.

No new matter is added to this application by entry of this amendment.

Claims 1-32 are active. Claims 1-15, 17 18 and 22-32 are withdrawn.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claimed invention is directed to a method to prepare 5-methyl-4,5,6,7-tetrahydrothiazolo[5,4-c]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid [formula (5)] or a salt thereof.



This compound is an important intermediate for producing compounds useful in the prevention and treatment of thrombus-related diseases. An efficient method to produce the intermediate of formula (5) which uses easily obtained and handled reactants and can be practiced on an industrial scale is sought.

The claimed invention addresses this problem by providing a process for preparing 5-methyl-4,5,6,7-tetrahydrothiazolo[5,4-c]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid [formula (5)] or a salt thereof according to Claim 16 and claims dependent thereon. This invention was made prior to the publication of the cited reference.

The rejection of Claims 16 and 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Haginoya et al. (Heterocycles, 63(7), 2004, 1555-1561) is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that this publication is not available as prior art.

Applicants submit herewith a certified copy of priority document Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-382382, filed November 12, 2003, an accurate English language

Application No. 10/578,844
Reply to Office Action of June 18, 2008

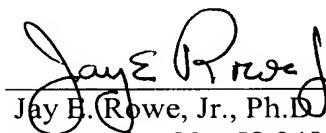
translation and a statement that the translation is accurate. The subject matter of the claimed invention is described in the claims and specification of this document. This submission perfects priority to the November 12, 2003, filing date.

Applicants respectfully note that the November 12, 2003, priority date antedates the Haginoya publication date of May 14, 2004. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited reference is not available as prior art. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 16 and 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Haginoya is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 16 and 19-21 of the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance and early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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